

10/10/1991

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 90STATE 241042

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SUBJECT: US REACTION TO IRAQI THREATS IN THE GULF

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ACTION ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF
BRIEFING HOST-COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON
US VIEWS AND ACTIONS FOLLOWING RECENT IRAQI STATEMENTS AND
THREATS AGAINST ITS GULF NEIGHBORS. IN DOING SO, THEY
SHOULD PROVIDE THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT

STATEMENT OF JULY 18:

QUOTE. WE REMAIN DETERMINED TO ENSURE THE FREE FLOW OF OIL THROUGH THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND TO DEFEND THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION. WE ALSO REMAIN STRONGLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SELF-DEFENSE OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE GULF WITH WHOM WE HAVE DEEP AND LONGSTANDING TIES. UNQUOTE.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE US IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE HOSTILE IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT IRAQI STATEMENTS DIRECTED AGAINST IRAQ'S NEIGHBORS, KUWAIT AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. WHILE WE TAKE NO POSITION ON THE BORDER DELINEATION ISSUE RAISED BY IRAQ WITH RESPECT TO KUWAIT, OR ON OTHER BI-LATERAL DISPUTES, IRAQI STATEMENTS SUGGEST AN INTENTION TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING DISAGREEMENTS BY THE USE OF FORCE, AN APPROACH WHICH IS CONTRARY TO UN-CHARTER PRINCIPLES. THE IMPLICATIONS OF HAVING OIL PRODUCTION AND PRICING POLICY IN THE GULF DETERMINED AND ENFORCED BY IRAQI GUNS ARE DISTURBING.

--WE STATED SOME OF THESE VIEWS CLEARLY ON JULY 18. WE

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HAVE REINFORCED THEM IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND WITH THE GOI THROUGH OUR AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD. OUR EMBASSIES IN ARAB LEAGUE CAPITALS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE OUR POLICIES KNOWN TO HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS.

4. PLEASE REPORT REACTIONS AS APPROPRIATE. BAKER